

## News from SALEM COUNTY Office of Public Information

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## COUNTY TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT GRANT FUNDING

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Charles Sullivan, Chair of the County Finance Committee, today announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders has implemented an additional tool aimed at reducing county spending by requiring departments to submit grant proposal to both departmental committees and the finance committee before preparing the grant application. Before this change in policy, departments only had to obtain the approval of their departmental committee before going to the entire board for a vote.

"Grants are great in that they provide outside money to the County but they often come with strings attached," said Freeholder Sullivan. "Most grants offer seed money for programs that will need to be sustained entirely by the County tax payers in the future. Therefore, it is imperative that the Freeholders examine every grant proposal and application to assess the long-term financial implications."

This new procedure is in line with the modified zero-based budgeting approach implemented by the Freeholders in which departments have to justify every dollar spent above fifty percent of the 2007 budgeted amount.

"The Freeholders are working toward a very low spending increase this year," said Freeholder Sullivan. "We are faced with fixed costs that are rising exponentially which we have no control over. However, the free grant money of the past is now catching up with us in the present, which makes it imperative that we examine every dollar of new grant funding to make sure that it will help, not burden our tax payers with large financial commitments and other associated incidental costs. We will continue to be aggressive in obtaining the right kind of grant funding for Salem County."